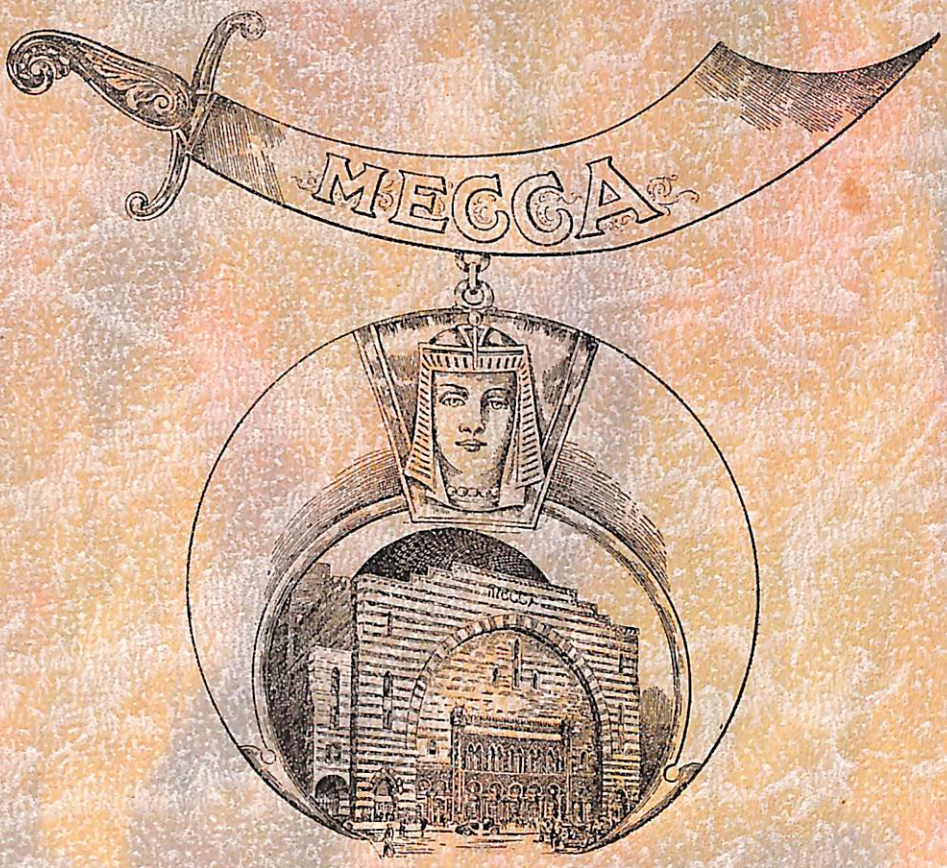

Dedication

New Mosque of Mecca Temple

A.A.O.N.M.S.

133 West 55th Street, New York

Walter E White, Jr

NAHAR EL ETNIN, SECOND DAY, SIXTH MONTH, HEJRA 1343

answering to

Monday, December 29, 1924

Mecca Temple
A.A.O.N.M.S.

DEDICATORY EXERCISES

Es Salamu Aleikum

WELCOME, oh Brother of the True Faith, thrice welcome be thou to the Holy Mosque of Mecca. Sit with us. Partake of our bread and salt. Lave thy travel stained feet in the cool waters of the fountain, and join with us in the observances which the Prophet hath enjoined upon all True Believers.

Many months have we toiled upon this Mosque, through the hot blasts of the desert winds and the chill breezes which come from the summit of Mt. Arafat when the sun sinks far to the south.

Rock has been brought from the quarries, and rare woods borne on the backs of camels across the desert wastes from the jungles of the Euphrates. Under the burning Summer sun and amid the cold rains the Faithful have labored until now our Mosque is complete and finished, a monument to all True Believers and a tribute to the Faith.

Today we have gathered to celebrate its completion, to invoke the Blessings of Allah (Merciful! Compassionate!), upon the structure we have reared unto His holy name. We welcome thee to our company. May the day be blessed to thee above all other days and may the night be gay with song and feasting. May your enjoyment be such as hath been promised in the shady paths of Paradise. Share our prayers and thanksgivings and go forth into the world again, refreshed in body and mind, assured that a welcome ever awaits thee here upon thy return.

Allah is great. May our faces ever find favor in His sight.

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Rosslyn M. Cox

ILLUSTRIOUS POTENTATE
MECCA TEMPLE
A. A. O. N. M. S.

Program of Events

DEDICATORY CEREMONIES—2:00 P. M.

SOLO—"The Star-Spangled Banner".....*Key*
Miss Caterina Gobbi, Soprano,
accompanied by Orchestra.
Maestro B. Gagliano, Conductor.

INVOCATION—The Right Reverend William T. Manning, *Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New York.*

OVERTURE—"Spanish Dances"....*Moussorgsky*
Orchestra

ADDRESS—Hon. Rosslyn M. Cox, *Illustrious Potentate of Mecca Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S.*

SOLO—Aria from "Manon".....*Massenet*
Mr. Ralph Errolle, Tenor, Metropolitan Opera Company.

ADDRESS—Hon. John F. Hylan, *Mayor of the City of New York.*

SOLO—Aria from "La Forza del Destino...*Verdi*
Miss Caterina Gobbi

DEDICATORY CEREMONIES under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York.

OFFICERS OF GRAND LODGE, F. & A. M.

Grand Master.....M.·.W.·.William A. Rowan
Deputy Grand Master..R.·.W.·.Harold J. Richardson
Senior Grand Warden...R.·.W.·.Charles H. Johnson
Junior Grand Warden.....R.·.W.·.R. Elliott Owens
Grand Treasurer.....R.·.W.·.Jacob C. Klinck
Grand Secretary..M.·.W.·.Robert Judson Kenworthy
Grand Chaplain,
R.·.W.·.and Very Reverend Oscar F. R. Treder
Grand Marshal.....R.·.W.·.John J. MacCrum

SELECTION—"Pan America" .....*Herbert*
Orchestra

SOLO—"My Dream" .....*Tosti*
Mr. Ralph Errolle

ADDRESS—Hon. Arthur S. Tompkins, *Justice of Supreme Court, and Past Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York.*

SOLO—"The Last Rose of Summer"—from "Martha" .....*Von Flotow*
Miss Caterina Gobbi

ADDRESS—Hon. W. Freeland Kendrick, *Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, Pa., and Past Imperial Potentate of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of North America.*

DUET—From First Act of "Carmen".....*Bizet*
Miss Caterina Gobbi
Mr. Ralph Errolle

BENEDICTION—Rev. Joel Blau, *Rabbi of Temple Peni-El.*

MARCH—"The Stars and Stripes Forever"..*Sousa*
Orchestra

Hardman piano used.

Concert arranged by John Bellucci of International Lyric Bureau, 1452 Broadway, New York.

CEREMONIAL SESSION—7:30 P. M.

OVERTURE—By Mecca Temple Band

DEDICATION OF MECCA TEMPLE MOSQUE by Imperial Council Officers, under the leadership of Imperial Assistant Rabban Clarence M. Dunbar, acting as the personal representative of the Imperial Potentate, James E. Chandler, who is unable to be present.

OFFICERS OF IMPERIAL COUNCIL, A. A. O. N. M. S.

Imperial Potentate.....Clarence M. Dunbar
Imperial Chief Rabban.....Esten A. Fletcher
Imperial Assistant Rabban.....Edward R. Gailer
Imperial High Priest and Prophet..John A. Morison
Imperial Treasurer.....Christian C. Gerhardt
Imperial Recorder.....Louis N. Donnatin
Imperial Oriental Guide.....Thomas A. Davis
Imperial Marshal.....James R. Watt
Imperial Orator.....James W. Downing
Imperial First Ceremonial Master...George Cook, Jr.
Imperial Second Ceremonial Master,
William B. Falconer
Imperial Alchemists.....{James A. Rogers / Frederick I. Dana
Imperial Captain of Guard.....Clarence R. Howe

"The Star-Spangled Banner"
Mecca Temple's Double Quartet.

ADDRESS—Hon. Rosslyn M. Cox, *Illustrious Potentate of Mecca Temple.*

NECROLOGY—Louis N. Donnatin, *Recorder of Mecca Temple.*

PRESENTATION OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES—Hon. Rosslyn M. Cox, *Illustrious Potentate.*

SELECTION—Mecca Temple's Double Quartet.

CONFERRING OF THE ORDER OF THE MYSTIC SHRINE—The conferring of the Order of the Mystic Shrine will be performed by an "All Potentate" cast; the names of the Illustrious Nobles who will exemplify the Ritual are here given, with the names of the Temples over which they preside, and the cities of their location.

CAST

Illustrious Potentate.....Rosslyn M. Cox
Mecca Temple, New York.

Chief Rabban.....Albert H. Ladner, Jr.
Lu Lu Temple, Philadelphia, Pa.

Assistant Rabban.....George F. Eisenbrown
Rajah Temple, Reading, Pa.

High Priest and Prophet.....George E. Meyers
Syria Temple, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Oriental Guide.....Ray G. Pratt
Kalurah Temple, Binghamton, N. Y.

First Ceremonial Master.....Charles F. Watson
Melha Temple, Springfield, Mass.

Second Ceremonial Master.....Clifford H. Bradt
Kismet Temple, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Marshal.....Frank E. Davenport
Salaam Temple, Newark, N. J.

Captain of the Guard.....James A. Smith
Oriental Temple, Troy, N. Y.

Inspired Charge.....Hon. W. Freeland Kendrick
Lu Lu Temple, Philadelphia, Pa.

Director.....Harry C. Arthur
Past Illustrious Potentate of Mecca Temple.

Staged under the personal direction of Albert H. Ladner, Jr., Illustrious Potentate of Lu Lu Temple, Philadelphia, Pa.

A Brief History of the Mystic Shrine

CONTRARY to popular belief, the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine is not a part of the Masonic system. Masonry, in all of its branches is a serious study of morality through the use of symbols. It is not frivolous in any of its degrees and the Mystic Shrine is not "The Playground of Masonry," but rather the playground *for* Masons, since membership is limited to those who have attained the end of their travels in the York or Scottish Masonry.

The Shrine, as it is known in North America, was founded in New York City in 1872, and the first meeting of record was held in Masonic Hall, September 26th of that year when thirteen charter members formally established "New York Temple, No. One," which shortly was changed to "Mecca Temple," in accordance with the resolution that all temples should be known by Arabic or Egyptian names.

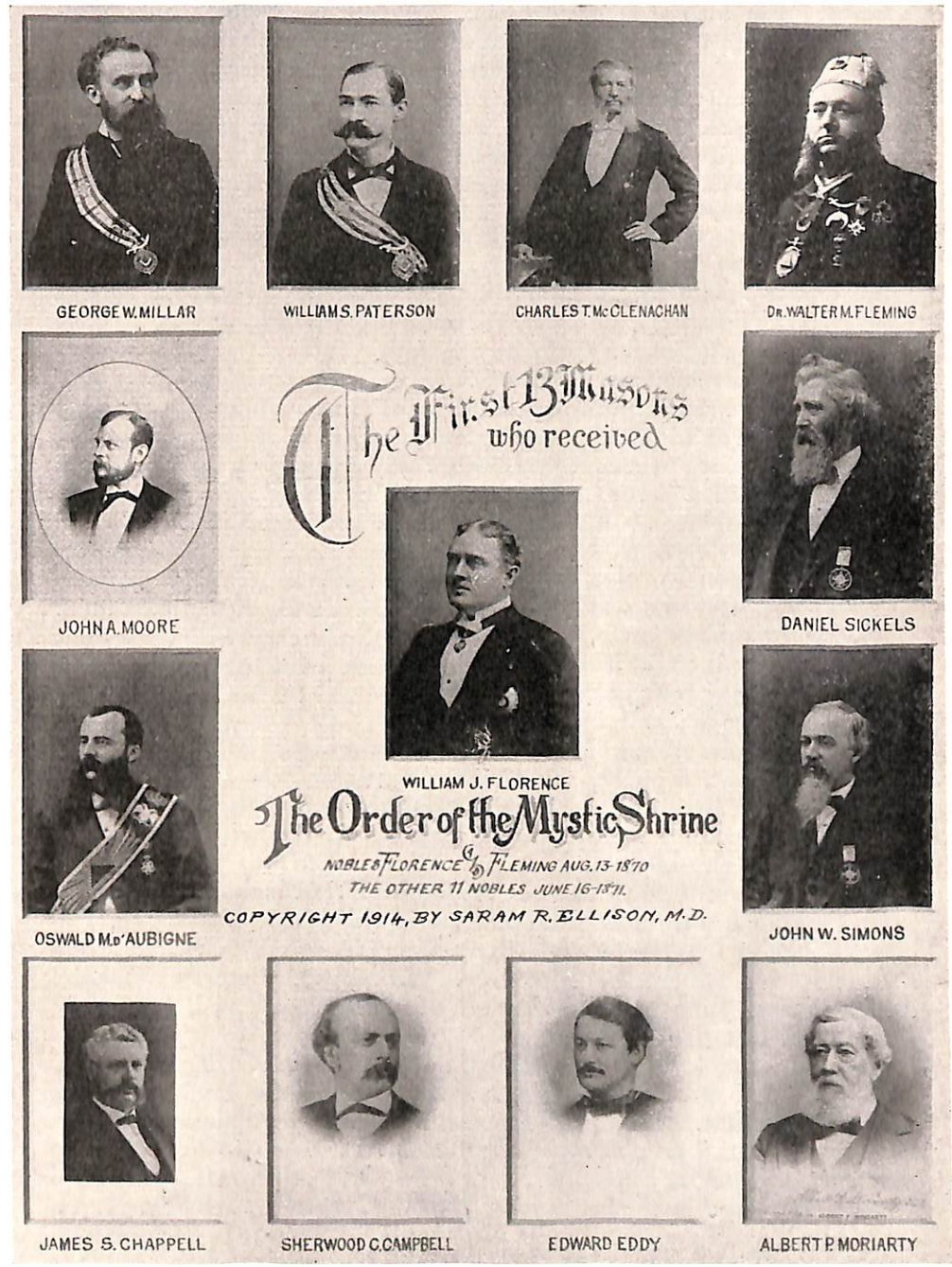
This was not, however, the first meeting, for on June 16, 1871, thirteen men met in Masonic Hall and there decided upon the formation of the Order, and the original ritual, in the handwriting of Dr. Walter M. Fleming, one of its founders, bears the legend: "Written August, 1870, for the Establishment of the Order in the Western Hemisphere."

Actually the idea of such an Order was first conceived in the old Knickerbocker Cottage, which still stands in Sixth Avenue, near the corner of Twenty-eighth Street.

This resort, then under the management of William Fowler, was a favorite place of congregation with actors and men socially prominent, and was largely frequented by Masons, particularly those possessed of the higher degrees. There was a room on the second floor where they could meet in a sort of club, and admission fee to which was one framed photograph of the member, whose prominence in social, Masonic or theatrical life made his portrait desirable.

Here were formed a score of short-lived "degrees," none of which lasted beyond the enthusiasm of the formative stage, and here, too, the famous Thirteen Club had its origin; the only other organization to stand the test of time.

Among the "regulars" was Dr. Walter M. Fleming, a highly successful practicing physician and a devoted student of Masonry. Here too, could be found Charles T. McClenachan, perhaps the greatest of all American ritualists. Among the theatrical members was William J. Florence, whose frequent New York engagements were played at the old Booth's Theatre, on the southeast corner of Twenty-third Street and Sixth Avenue, only a few blocks below.

It was Florence who brought from France some ritual of a

MECCA TEMPLE, A. A. O. N. M. S.
Instituted September 26, 1872, with the above thirteen officers.

society he had visited in Marsailles and which had appealed to his fancy. He also had a document, written in Arabic script, empowering him to found a branch of the Order in North America.

The picturesque ritual, with its rich Oriental coloring appealed to Dr. Fleming, and the manuscript was given him for adaptation. Just how much of the original work was retained probably never will be known. There are even some who contend that the Order is purely American in its origin, but it seems to be a clearly established fact that William J. Florence did bring with him the more or less complete ritual of some Oriental order which had found its way into France, and according to the early history of the Order compiled by Louis N. Donnatin, the present Recorder of Mecca Temple, and Epes W. Sargent, the archives of Mecca Temple show this clearly to be the fact.

In the development of the Order the question naturally arose as to the pre-requisites for membership. Since all of the original members were high Masons, it was natural that membership in one or the other of the higher bodies should be made pre-requisite, and in America membership is limited to those who are either Knights Templars or Thirty-second Degree Masons in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

The reason for this choice was two-fold.

The greater aim was to bring into one body all of the prominent Masons within the prescribed jurisdiction. There was no Masonic body where all could meet. The Shrine provided for that bringing together, since but one Shrine Temple could be formed within a jurisdiction.

The lesser reason was found in the popular allusions to the Masonic Goat, a purely fabulous animal which the toiling Mason never met. By the time he was eligible to the Shrine he found that the goat had grown into a camel with the well known propensities of the bucking broncho.

In addition to these two the original thirteen included Sherwood C. Campbell, James S. Chappelle, Oswald Merle d'Aubigne, Edward Eddy, Charles T. McClenachan, George W. Millar, John A. Moore, Albert P. Moriarty, William S. Paterson, Daniel Sickels and John W. Simons, all of whom were well known in their various professions.

Upon the formation of Mecca Temple, the Order was communicated to prominent Masons who visited New York, with the suggestion that they form Temples in their own communities.

Damascus Temple, of Rochester, N. Y., was the second to be formed with Mt. Sinai, of Montpelier, and Al Koran, of Cleveland, chartered in the same year, 1876. Cyprus, of Albany, N. Y., Oriental, in Troy, Syrian, in Cincinnati, Pyramid, in Bridgeport, Syria, in Pittsburgh, and Ziyara, in Utica, were chartered the following year, and then the Order marked time. Only one temple was chartered in 1878 and one in 1880, but in 1882 the real growth started and there has been no session of the Imperial Council at which charters were not granted until the past three or four years when it was decided to issue new charters only where it could be shown that such new bodies would not injure the prosperity of the adjacent temples.

There are now 156 temples, all of which are in the United States and Canada except those in Mexico City, the Canal Zone and Honolulu.

The Imperial Council, the national governing body, was organized in New York in 1876, with Dr. Fleming as the first Imperial Potentate; a position he held for ten years, most of the early meetings being held to conform to the sitting of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York to economize transportation.

Until 1920 the Shrine was purely an organization devoted to good fellowship, but in that year the then Imperial Potentate, W. Freeland Kendrick, now Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, broached his long cherished plan of the Children's Hospitals, and in 1921 at the session in Des Moines the Shriners' Hospitals for Crippled Children was formally organized. There are now nine of these hospitals either open or in course of construction, with a flying unit in Hawaii, and another being organized for service where it may be most sorely needed. Close to its fiftieth anniversary the Shrine found a soul, and with a definite objective has become more firmly knit than ever. The membership December 31, 1923, was 564,379 in 155 temples.

There are three temples in New York and vicinity, Mecca Temple having jurisdiction of Manhattan Island and north to Poughkeepsie and west to Monticello and Parker's Glen; Kismet, with jurisdiction over all of Long Island, and Salaam, with the northern half of New Jersey for its territory. Mecca Temple is first in point of age and fifth in point of present membership.

MECCA TEMPLE HOLDING CO.

~INCORPORATED~

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The Men Behind the Mosque

BROADLY speaking the men behind the Mosque are the 12,000 and more men who take pride in their membership in Mecca, the Mother Temple, but three names stand out upon the list as those who really lead this army, for the Mosque is the product of the Mecca Temple Holding Company, Inc., which is composed of Past Potentates Benedict, Matthews, Williams, Donnatin, Arthur and Jones. Of these Robert D. Williams, as President, Louis N. Donnatin, as Secretary-Treasurer and Harry C. Arthur, as Vice President and Representative of the Holding Company on the job, have borne the brunt of the battle.

It is due to their untiring—and almost unceasing—work that the Mosque now stands a reality. It is due to them that it is not only one of the most novel but one of the most solidly constructed buildings in a city famous the world over for its marvelous commercial buildings.

In the Old World they boast of the work of ancient builders; of cathedrals and palaces. In America we stand foremost in the erection of modern skyscrapers, and in a city which offers the Woolworth, the Metropolitan and Equitable Buildings, the Mecca Temple Mosque stands one of the truly notable buildings because it embodies in its construction so many new ideas in planning and workmanship.

And it is largely due to the vision of the Holding Company that the Mosque enjoys this distinction. Only one of its members is even remotely connected with the building trades. None has had architectural training, yet it is they who gave the architects the ideas that are embodied in the splendid structure, and which have set new standards not alone in Mosque construction, but in amusement building generally.

No other building in America has been planned to meet so many demands. The Mosque is not merely a place for the holding of the sessions of Mecca Temple. It is designed to meet every amusement need short of a three-ringed circus. It has a stage with a working space sufficient to permit the presentation of any form of operatic or dramatic spectacle. It not only can be "trapped" at any point, but it is provided with an elevator in the center able to take a five-ton truck and drop it down to the level of the supper room, two stories below, and the truck can be run from the street onto the stage under its own power.

It has a projection room as completely equipped as any motion picture theatre in the country, with two projection machines, the usual complement of spotlights, and all of the other conveniences, and should an accident occur, an entire program of film may burn without the audience knowing, since a special ventilating system

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THE AUDITORIUM FRONT OF THE NEW MECCA TEMPLE MOSQUE

Herewith we present the reproduction of our new Mosque, showing the frontage on Fifty-fifth street. The design is worked out in granite, sandstone and terra cotta in various colors, this being one of the most brilliant fronts ever designed for a semi-public building. The Mosque will take high rank among the architectural examples in New York City, and will truly be the Mecca of architects and builders from all parts of the country. Not alone is the front unique in the history of terra cotta work, but in every department this building represents the last word in modern construction and has been pronounced one of the most interesting buildings in the country.

will carry off the vapors after automatic shutters have closed the portholes looking upon the auditorium.

When the splendid Moller pipe organ, with its 32-foot pipes, is installed, it will be played by an organist sitting in the center of the first balcony, where he may judge for himself the quality of his tonal effects; something not possible where the organ console is on the stage or in the orchestra pit.

It has two complete sets of dressing rooms. One set will be the usual equipment of the theatre, star, support and chorus rooms, with hot and cold water in each room, and toilets and shower baths on each floor. In addition, the Band, Patrol and Directors' rooms will communicate with the stage, though these are capable of being completely shut off from the stage section. These rooms are also provided with showers and other conveniences.

In addition, there are three complete and modern lodge rooms, an executive suite and two floors later to be devoted to club purposes, while beneath the auditorium is a supper room with an unbroken space capable of seating from 2,500 to 3,000 guests, and with a fully equipped caterer's kitchen of a size to match. The arrangement is such that the supper room may be used in conjunction with the auditorium or two different entertainments may be held at the same time without confliction.

The auditorium proper will seat about 4,500 persons and can be made to accommodate 5,000. Every seat commands a full view of the stage, and there are no posts or support to mar the sight lines. This is made possible through the use of some of the largest girders ever put into place in any building in this city and one, weighing 114 tons, is the second largest ever set into any building in America.

The ornamental south front is the finest piece of terra cotta work extant. Color has been used before, but never to such an extent as is permissible in a building of Oriental design, but where the Arabian builder uses kalsomine, we have used imperishable terra cotta.

Even in its ventilating system the Mosque goes beyond any other public building. It is the only auditorium in New York in which smoking may be permitted. Five minutes after an audience leaves the smoke has been completely eliminated through a system of ventilation employing some miles of air ducts. More than 300,000 pounds of metal were used for these pipes and the exhaust and intake fans add 50,000 pounds to this weight.

The Mosque makes good its boast of being the most modern and complete amusement structure in this country, and stands a monument to Mecca Temple in general and to Past Potentates Williams, Donnatin and Arthur in particular.

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PAST POTENTATES OF MECCA TEMPLE
(Photograph taken April, 1924)

Top Row: ARTHUR H. DIAMANT, *THOMAS G. PRICE, HARRY C. ARTHUR, PAUL JONES
Seated: ROBERT D. WILLIAMS, WILLIAM J. MATTHEWS, CHARLES A. BENEDICT, THOMAS A. LEWIS, LOUIS N. DONNATIN

* Died July 15, 1924.

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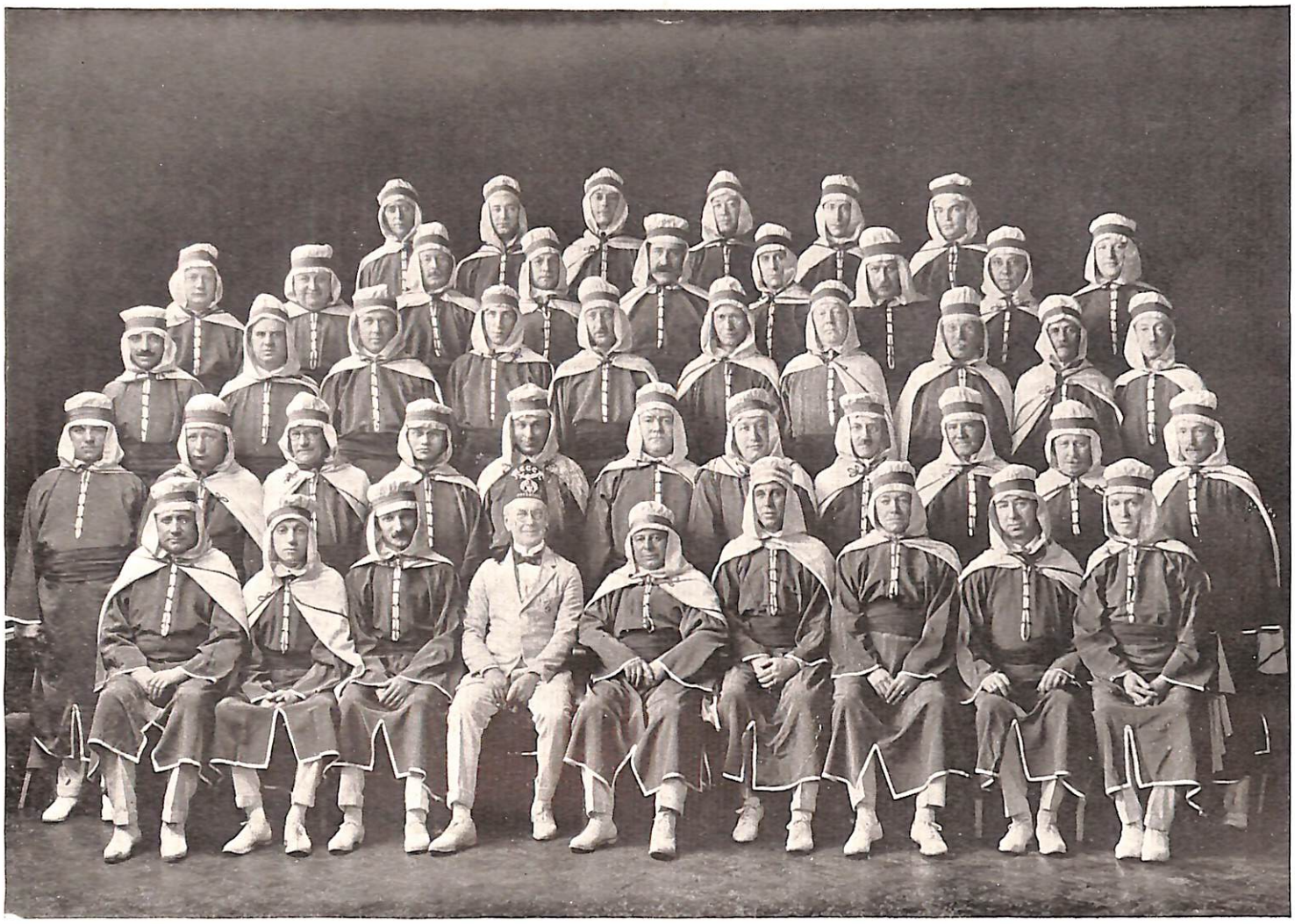
OFFICIAL DIVAN OF MECCA TEMPLE—YEAR 1924



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ARAB PATROL OF MECCA TEMPLE

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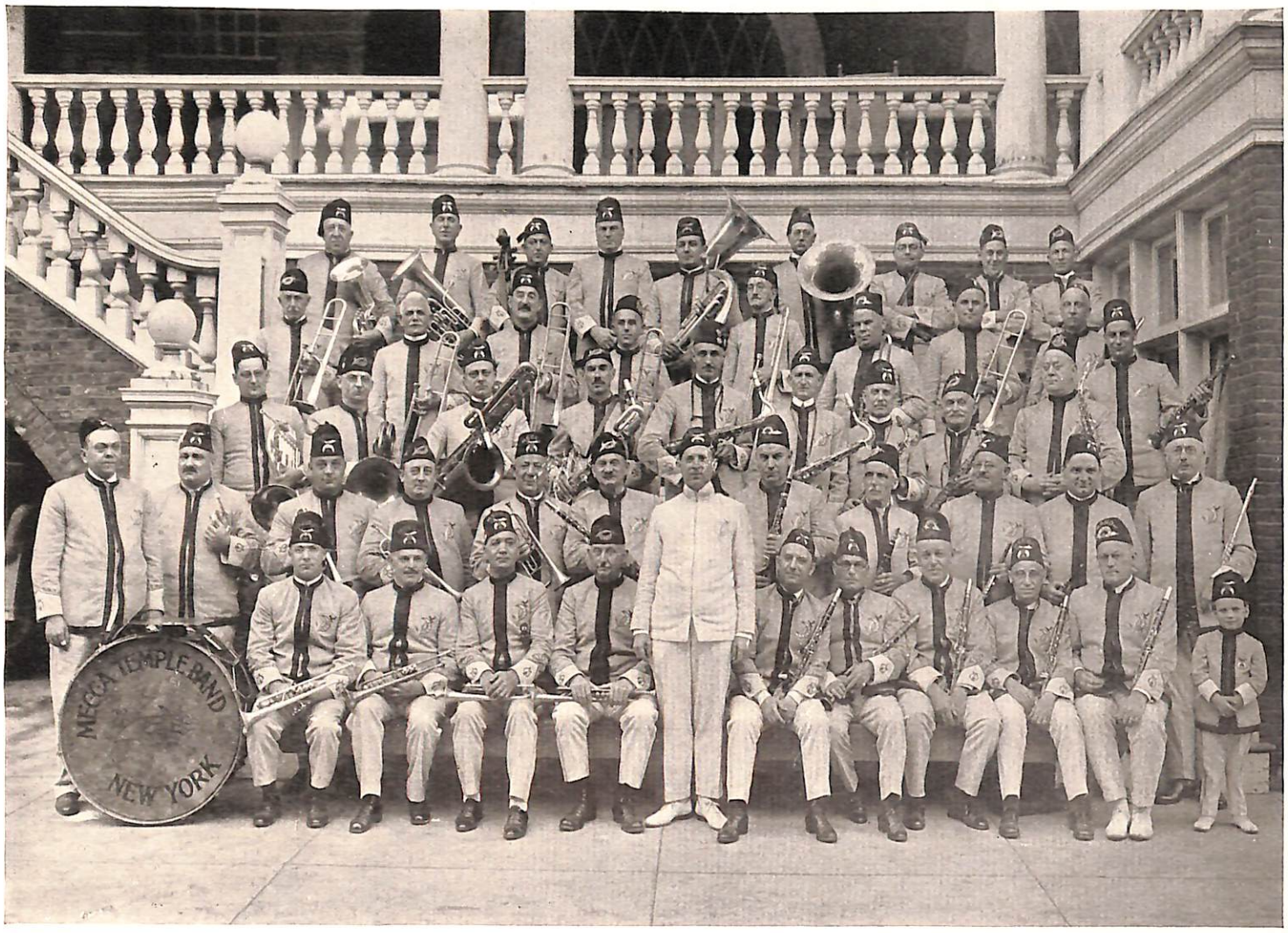
POTENTATE, DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT DIRECTORS OF MECCA TEMPLE



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MECCA TEMPLE BAND